



FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

October 2007



Florida News

Submitted By: Bill Royal & Sam Ulbing

Lot's going on so let's get to it.

There has been a growing trend of folks stepping up to host rides and we think this is GREAT news! It gives more folks more opportunities and choices, while limiting the times where we overwhelm a venue and people don't get served. Way to go gang and keep it up!

Sam and I have discussed this and we've decided to remove the North & South classifiers from the rides. From now on they will be listed as simple "Lunch" or "Brunch" rides (or maybe dinner if someone sees fit to host one!

Also, there are other changes going on in the club. Sam has expressed an interest in stepping down as State Co-Director and he has a candidate to potentially replace him. The goal is for a December change. Stay tuned. In the meantime, a big THANKS to Sam for stepping up and taking over from Phil. This club would not exist were it not for the volunteers to run it so we appreciate all efforts.

Along those lines, I have been doing this newsletter for several years now and I NEED to take a break. One member has stepped up to say he can edit the newsletter, but I need the rest of the job to be taken over as well - printing, stuffing and mailing. So, if you could possibly share that with someone or can consider doing it all, please let's hear from you now. I will publish the newsletters for the rest of this year, but the December issue will be my last. In the meantime due to the high cost of color printing coupled with the fact that I have yet to hit the lottery, I am forced to cut back by producing the newsletter in B&W., starting with this issue. It will still be available at the website in color.

On another note, I have published the 2nd part of a story from Orvil Roesberry. I had to apologize to Orvil, because he sent me this article back in June, but with STAR and the following articles I had stacked up, I wasn't able to fit it in until the August newsletter - or so I thought. What I actually did - in my rush to get the newsletter out and leave for my Iron Butt run - was to mistakenly republish the first part of his article, which had already appeared in a previous issue. This was a total oversight on my part and for that I apologize. My trusty proofreader, Eve, was already on the road for NH so I just goofed.

We had a decent turnout at the Lunch ride to Frostproof - despite my nearly not making it at all! The previous weekend I had tried to take a ride and found my battery dead. I hadn't had it on the battery tender, but I also assumed that since it was 2+ years old, the battery was likely toast, so I went to WalMart and bought another one. However, after checking the voltage on the bike after the tender had brought it back to green light status, I thought maybe the old one was still OK. When I went to start it 15 minutes before the lunch ride departure I found out otherwise so it looked like I would be taking the car. When I showed up in the car the crew felt pity on me and a non-member Bronson Griggs, who was riding his SV this day, offered me the use of his ST1300 which he has for sale - so I made the ride on that after all. Thanks Bronson!

Sam's North News:

I'm told the benefits of HSTA are the people and the riding. If so then Florida is right up there with the best. We may not have the best roads in the country but we sure offer our members lots of opportunities to ride different roads around our state and this is due to the willingness of our

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Welcome to the Club!

We would like to extend a hearty and sincere welcome to the following recent new members. Thank you for choosing to join our group. Many long lasting friendships have begun here and we hope your experience will be a satisfying one!

No new members this month

This 2 time award winning newsletter is produced and edited by:

Bill Royal
HSTA Florida Newsletter
Editor

Web Addresses:

If you're "connected" be sure to check out the National HSTA Site at: www.ridehsta.com

And the Award Winning Florida HSTA Site at: www.flahsta.org

The Florida Chapter of the HSTA has two State Directors.

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Free Ads

Motorcycle related items - wanted or for sale, riding buddies or room mates for events can be placed right here - for free! Just send them to arrive by the 15th for the next month's publication. Send to Bill Royal, (address on front page of newsletter) or email to ridefl@flahsta.org.

For Sale

Bikes

2003 Honda ST 1300ABS, @37K miles of faultless performance, all scheduled maintenance performed - synthetic oil only, 90% of fuel run through the bike has been Chevron Techron 93, new Bridgestone O20s in April; extras include: MC Cruise, running lights, heated grips, back-off brake light, custom Ventura pack bracket - Ventura pack, small grip bar and small Nelson pack part of package. 30 months remaining on Honda Factory Extended Warranty Metallic grey, with a few scratches. \$9,000.
Contact: Tom at 352.336.7294 (preferred) or t.kerkoff@att.net

2003 Honda VFR800VTEC Interceptor, 7500 mi., factory hard bags, Power Commander, Scorpion cans, sport touring windscreen, Heli Bars, Throttlemeister cruise, new Dunlop D220's, Silver. Sport Touring Ready! \$7500.00
Contact: Richard at 954.675.4728 or rpk2fla1@yahoo.com

1977 BMW R100RS with 32000 miles in good condition. BMW tank bag, saddle bags, small luggage rack, stock & tall windshields. \$4000.00
Contact: Art Bremer 352-464-2000 (st.ops@earthlink.net)

Gear

Corbin "Gunfighter & Lady" seat and backrest for ST1100. \$300.00
Contact: Art Bremer 352-464-2000 (st.ops@earthlink.net)

Garmin 478, includes power cord, software, pre-loaded maps and cover (does not include antenna). \$700

VTX 1300 Corbin seat (used one day only!) \$400
Contact John French 561-350-6177 (no email)

Other

Wells Cargo Cycle Wagon enclosed motorcycle trailer - Lightly used, probably less than 5,000 miles. 12.5' X 7' box, probably 16 to 17 feet overall. Tandem axle, electric brakes, aero nose cone, diamond plate aluminum fenders, black with chrome bottom trim, rear ramp door with spring assist, paneled inside with interior lights, wheel chocks and multiple floor and side tie down points, side door on front right side. This trailer cost over \$6,000 new, current models are about \$7,000. Buy mine for \$4,500. Will deliver up to 250 miles for cost of gas. I can E-mail photos upon request. Contact Jan Berryman, Tallahassee, Florida (850) 893-2253 or E-mail berryman15@comcast.net.

Wanted

Small off road bike 80cc-125cc 4stroke, 3-5 yrs old, Honda, Yamaha or Suzuki.
Contact Phil Ridgdill Email rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net, 904 287 9654

Florida News

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members to volunteer!

For the past few months I have been soliciting members to organize rides. I did this in part to try to find new places to eat (and hence new roads to ride). In 2007 we have had the chance to go to 20 *different* locations. Because the FL HSTA members have responded so well, the past couple of months we have been able to offer more than the two traditional North - South rides and it looks like we will be able to continue to do so.

In August we had three ride opportunities; in Sept there were four including the SE Star event, in October there will again be four: The 6th is a lunch ride organized by Bill Royal, the 13th is the Fall Fantastic event hosted by Phil Ridg-

dill (a weekend event that is close enough for even those who work to participate), on the 20th I will host a lunch at a new place, Billy Jacks and finally on the 27th Jim McClure is offering a very different kind of lunch event.



Rob Medwed's Yalaha brunch

I was particularly pleased with Rob Medwed's Yalaha brunch. With only 10 attendees and being only a 1.5 hour ride for the Gainesville group, I was able to linger over brunch and chat with everyone. So often in the past I have been frustrated not being able to talk to everyone because the group was too large and the long travel times limited the amount of social time. I hope we can continue to do more rides to different places. Let Bill or me know if you know a place you think the group would like. Keep in mind that Sundays and week days are also legitimate days for a ride (at least if you are retired).



In Search of STAR of HSTA

Submitted by: Orvil Roesberry

This is the continuing tale of a brave Knight of the Royal Order of HSTA and his quest for the magical STAR of HSTA. Having left his humble abode in the Kingdom of Florida aboard his trusty steed "Magna", who was laden down with all manner of camping supplies for his survival in the wilderness of Care-O-Lina, he turned his trusty steed north away from civilization, casting one last look over his shoulder at his many retainers and relatives. Would he ever see them again? Hour after hour he traveled northward, stopping only to feed his faithful mount. Magna needed to be fed every 120 miles or she would falter. They swept through many small villages, each one smaller the further north they went. He met many pilgrims on their way to the Kingdom of Florida. He met also many other riders, some he was sure were warlocks or trolls; it was not easy to tell. Sir Orvil knew how to recognize a true Knight. He would be wearing his armor, gloves and helmet. Not to judge every rider as a warlock or troll if he wasn't wearing such things, but you were never sure. It was best to avoid such strange people. Besides their mounts were usually loud and smelly.

Late in the day, Sir Orvil encountered his first witch. He had stopped to feed Magna and decided that he would partake of some sustenance also. There she was behind a large table, her lips curled into a snarl of displeasure. "What is that unholy smell?" she croaked, nose wrinkled as if she actually smelled something. Sir Orvil said nothing for he had no idea what she could be referring to. Certainly it couldn't be the garland of garlic that his daughter had insisted he wear around his neck to ward off vampires. Sir Orvil paid for his food and ran to his mount and made a hasty departure. In his seventy-two years he had learned not to antagonize witches for they could put a spell on you that would last forever.

He camped for the night in a grove of trees by a tiny lake. It was called Piney Lake. Sir Orvil fixed his supper from his meager supplies then hung his garland of garlic and some magical totems outside his tent and went to sleep, secure in the knowledge that no vampires, ogres or werewolves would bother his sleep.

After bypassing one of the large cities in the kingdom of Georgia, where the people were running helter-skelter every which way, none of them seeming to be going anyplace, just running about, he then traveled into the first of the mountains. Magna was feeling frisky as she took to the first of the curves leading into the village of Dillard. Then he came upon a sign on the road 143 towards Care-O-Lina. Magna leapt into the curves as if she had been built for such twisty trails. Sir Orvil hung on for dear life as Magna leaned over and took the turns. Never had he experienced such a ride. The road twisted and snaked through the mountains with nary a hut or any sign of civilization. What a strange place this was. At any time they might be attacked by a werewolf or ogre. Sir Orvil had no time to dwell on this for more curves were coming at them. Magna seemed to know what to do as she lay over on her side and swept through the curve, never once dragging anything. Sir Orvil whispered a prayer to Soihiro Honda, patron saint of all HSTA riders to protect them as more twists and turns came upon them. Then they passed into the kingdom of Car-O-Lina and the road number changed to 106. As they flew by the small village of Highlands, Sir Orvil was getting more comfortable with the roads and trails. Maybe this wasn't as bad and scary a place as once he had

thought. The road had now eased off somewhat and the curves were much more moderate. Quickly they passed the villages of Cashiers and Rosman and into the thriving town of Brevard. As they turned north once more Sir Orvil was feeling quite comfortable until all of a sudden the road began rising and twisting as never before. As Magna leaned over into the first of the curves Sir Orvil heard a mighty scream coming from behind them, a moment later another rider, aboard a small sleek sporty looking mount flashed by with a banshee wail and a wave of his hand.

It definitely was not of this world, to be able to survive a sharp curve like that. Sir Orvil feared he might never see the flatlands of the kingdom of Florida again. A few more twists and turns of the road and they were at the entrance to the camping enclave at the tiny village of Cruso. And what a place it was. Everywhere he looked there were knights and their steeds. Bright tents and pavilions everywhere. Some knights were caring for their mounts, others were setting up tents. Sir Orvil found a spot under some trees near a small stream and guided Magna to it. As he went about setting up his campsite he was approached by a friendly knight. "Are you here to challenge the dragon?" he enquired. Sir Orvil replied with pride. "Of course, but after that I must seek the Star of HSTA." He hoped the other knight didn't notice his knees shaking when he made that statement.

That night there was a gathering around the fire and Knights told of feats of daring. There was much drinking and feasting: much music and troubadours, with several jesters and many beautiful damsels. The later it became, the taller the tales became. Sir Orvil had removed his garland of garlic and hung it on his tent; no vampires would bother him with that on there. Also people seemed a lot more friendly since he had done that. Sir Orvil was also disappointed in the fact that he couldn't fulfill one of the main items in his creed. That of rescuing fair damsels in distress. He had seen many, many damsels but none appeared to be in distress. The next morning Sir Orvil awoke with a throbbing head from all the ale he had consumed the night before but after a hearty breakfast of fried wild turkey gizzards he began to feel much better. Stopping a pair of knights that happened to be walking by he asked directions to the lair of the dragon. "You need to go to Deals Gap," she said (yes, there are lady knights). "Go south on 276 and take Blue Ridge Parkway north but don't go too fast, because I saw a couple of bears up there yesterday writing tickets for speeding."

Sir Orvil was crestfallen. Not only did he have to contend with dragons, witches and warlocks everywhere, but now, a bunch of bears also. It would be a miracle if he survived this journey. All the way to the village of Deals Gap he watched carefully for bears and other wild animals but saw nothing. He did see a native in some kind of uniform sitting in his vehicle by the side of the road but he appeared to be asleep. When he arrived at Deals Gap, he was disappointed to find that it wasn't a village at all but just a trading post. He went in to find out what he could about the dragon's whereabouts and was shocked to learn that only that weekend the dragon had struck again. Everyone was talking about the two separate riders that had fallen prey to the dragon. He was also shocked to find that this particular dragon was female. A shiver of fear went

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In Search of STAR of HSTA

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through him. Female dragons were worse than males. "What have I gotten myself into?" he thought. Then he straightened his shoulders and went out the door.

Sir Orvil turned Magna onto the downward trail into the heart of the dragon's lair. As they leaned into the first gentle curve he could feel the presence of the dragon hovering over them. He was determined to trust in his mighty steed's exceptional footing as they sped downward at breakneck speed, knowing that to tarry only gave the dragon the upper hand. Then it happened, the thing that he had feared most, the vengeance of the dragon. The dragon flew ahead of them and with a sweep of her mighty tail loosened some small rocks and they came tumbling across the road. Sir Orvil felt Magna lose her footing in the middle of the curve. They were doomed! The dragon had won! But then he could feel Magna end her slide and regain her lost footing. Somehow they made it through the turn. Sir Orvil could hear the dragon's screech of frustration as they shot out of the curve and into the next one.

Twice more on that trip to the bottom of the dragon's lair Sir Orvil felt the dragon try to upset them with her mighty wings or tail, always in the middle of a curve, but to no avail. Each time Sir Orvil could feel Magna lose her footing but she would always regain it. Once the dragon sent a vehicle with many wheels, looking like a

giant caterpillar, lumbering at them in the middle of a curve but Magna nimbly slipped by and they sped on. At the bottom, Sir Orvil stopped and shook his fist at the dragon in a defiant gesture. After resting for a while, the triumphant duo began their race to the top and the safety of the trading post at Deals Gap. He could hear the dragon scream behind them. He could feel the heat of her fiery breath on his back. The dragon sent two of her trolls after them aboard demon steeds, but they were no match for Magna, as she flew through the twists and turns, barley touching the road. Then he saw the top of the pass ahead and knew they had succeeded. He went into the trading post and purchased souvenirs for his daughter and son far away in the kingdom of Florida. That night he would have tales to tell around the fire as the tankards of ale were raised. At last, he was ready to continue his quest for the STAR of HSTA.

Editors Note: Sir Orvil never made it to STAR. His trusty steed threw a shoe (front wheel bearing) so he got it fixed, but too late to make the event and he then returned to his lair. Unfortunately, shortly after this, he had some personal family issues that demanded his attention and as a result had to sell his trusty steed and give up riding. I can only say that I thoroughly enjoyed his company on all our rides and I can only wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. I will miss him greatly.

STAR07 and Beyond - continued

Submitted By: Eve Blazsur

Editor's Note: This is the continuation of Eve's story from the August newsletter. -

After STAR07 it's up the Blue Ridge Parkway we go. We dodged rain all day, hiked Linville Falls, saw deer (a mama and baby) and a bear. Over the next several days we rode the rest of the BRP and up Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park. Again we saw deer (a couple with antlers), wild turkey, rabbits, ground hogs and another bear. We hiked several waterfalls and took many pictures. Then we headed west taking US33 towards Buckhannon, WV. What an awesome road; twists, turns, elevation changes, and scenery all there in one superb road. Our final destination that night was New Martinsville, WV; the jumping off point for the route south following along the Ohio River. Highway 7/US52 south along the river is not technical riding, but it sure is beautiful farmland, some accentuated by the quilt patterns painted on the barns. Even the old, tired cities along the river held a fascination for me. I could imagine these small, broken cities in a more glorious time, made prosperous by river traffic and commerce long gone now.

Having ridden through horse country in KY via US 68 we dropped further south and rode US 127 into Crossville, TN. We took a days rest and hiked another park: Cumberland State Park. This park has proximity to great roads, and is well equipped for camping, canoeing, fishing, cabin rentals, and a great down-home buffet restaurant. It would be interesting to get a group of folks together to rent a cabin(s) for a week to explore all that this area has to offer.

But home is calling and we are on our way towards Columbus, GA. The main objective here is Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain. This park has something for everyone; flowers, trees, bird show, trails, ponds, lake, water sports, vegetable gardens. The TV show The Victory Garden is sometimes filmed here; the garden is called "Victory Garden South". While walking in the vegetable garden we saw a squirrel bound across the path into a field of corn. Not 30 seconds later, out he came with an ear of corn as large as he was. He dragged that ear of corn across the path to a safe place and chowed down. I am sure all the critters who call Callaway home are very happy critters indeed.

We also made a very interesting side trip to Fort Benning's Infantry Museum. There is a large collection of tanks at the front of the museum and there are exhibits showing the history of the infantry from 1600's to current. I found it touching to see a monument honoring canines lost in war. Inside the museum there is a display explaining the military history of dogs used in war from the Greeks to modern day.

And so another STAR adventure came to an end, nine states later, 3171 miles later, many interesting sights later, and more memories later. I urge everyone to attend a STAR and ride beyond. (a side note; 3 weeks later I was off to New Hampshire, over to Maine for lobster, to Vermont to see friends, across into Canada and into Niagara Falls from the Canadian side, then home, 4733 miles later. But that is another adventure.)



Smaller is Better

Submitted by: Tosh Konya/ OH HSTA

While planning what to take to STAR this year, I once more confronted my monster Campbell-Hausfeld air compressor. In spite of having cut down the dimensions of the plastic case by approximately 30%, it still took a big hunk of space in the left trunk well of my PC800 where I keep all my "must have road trip tools."

I really wanted to buy a CyclePump, which is by far the smallest of the portable 12v compressors while having the largest price at \$99, but do I really want to spend one hundred big ones on something that I hope I'll never use? On a recent shopping trip to the nursery section at Meijer's, I also cruised through their auto section and looked at what was available and found none that were significantly smaller than my slenderized Campbell-Hausfeld.

Many of the guys with this type of pump have long since tossed the humongous case and keep the innards in a zip-lock bag but I didn't care for that idea. What I came up with was a simple design using

1/8 masonite to "sandwich" the compressor. I used nylon spacers and 1/4-20 bolts, available at any hardware store, to mount the masonite to the compressor and by a nice coincidence there are two

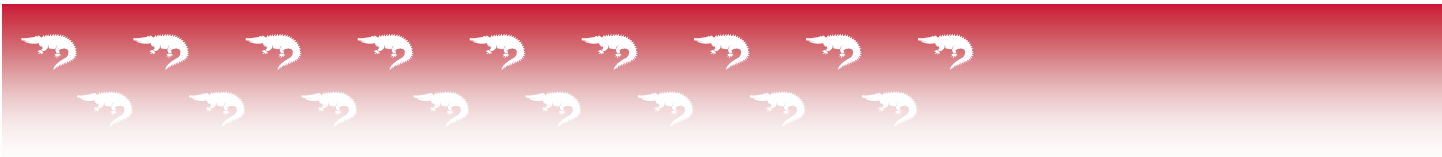
holes in the aluminum bridge which separates the compressor from the motor, perfect for the main mounting points. Be sure to use Loctite on any fasteners as the compressor does vibrate. Now, all the wiring is protected from harm and I kept the fan in spite of having cooling air readily available. During the trial runs, I found the existing wire harness nearly 7' too long so lopped off that unnecessary length.

The cubic dimension of my slenderized Campbell-Hausfeld is 114 cubic inches. The size of the coveted CyclePump is 48 cubic inches. My sandwich board fixup consumes 45 cubic inches. None of these dimensions include space needed by hose and



wire harness.

It's a low-tech fixup but I'm pretty much a low-tech guy so it fits.



Upcoming Rides/Events

Ride/Events are compiled for your convenience from a variety of sources. If you are considering making any of the rides we suggest you call the contact ahead of time to confirm the ride is still on as listed.

HSTA Florida Lunch Ride - Oct. 6th - Flora & Ella's, Labelle, FL - Lunch at 12:00 Noon - Now that we are getting out of the heat of the summer, I thought we would try a LUNCH ride at a place we haven't been in quite a while. Flora & Ella's is located at 550 State Highway 80 Labelle, FL 33935 - that SR80 about a half mile WEST of it's intersection with SR29, GPS Location: N26 45.686 W81 26.843
 Contact: Bill Royal RideFL@flahsta.org or 813-633-8155

HSTA Florida Fall Fantastic - Oct. 12-14 - Alachua, FL - A 3 day event offered by Phil Ridgdill. FL. Details in September's Rambling Around. Let Phil Ridgdill know if you wish to attend. rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net or 904-699-2447. If you plan to join the group Saturday morning Phil says be there before 9AM. This is open to non members so bring a friend.

HSTA Florida Lunch Ride - Oct. 20th - Billy Jack's Smokehouse Grill , Williston , FL, Lunch at 11:30 AM Noon **NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE IN LOCATION DUE TO BIKE WEEK** Billy Jack's is located at 143 East Noble Ave, Williston 352-528-5225, GPS: N29 23.254 W82 26.745. This is really on Rt. 27 and coming from the south it is before the intersection with 121. Please let me know if you plan to attend so I can make reservations. Sam Ulbing n4uau@cox.net 352-262-6221

HSTA Florida Brunch Ride - Oct. 27th - The Perfect Spot: at SkyDive Deland, Deland, FL. Lunch at 11:30 AM Located at 1600 Flight Line Blvd, at Deland Municipal Airport (located at the eastern edge of Deland), 386-734-0088 GPS: N29 03.786 W081 16.771. It is shown on the Garmin MapSource. Organized by Jim McClure who tells us: With outdoor seating available we can watch skydivers land within a hundred yards of us every 20 minutes. To get there, turn NW onto Langley Avenue (the eastern access to the airport; a Florida Highway Patrol station is on the corner) from E. International Speedway Blvd. (U.S. 92) and follow it to the end where you will see the building for SkyDive Deland on the right. The restaurant is in the center part of that building. Seating is limited so please contact Jim McClure if you plan to attend: 352.324.0569 or jamcclur3@aol.com

Upcoming Rides/Events -

- Nov. 3rd - 11:30 AM - Gator Joe's, Ocklawaha - Sam Ulbing
- Nov. 10th - 10:30 AM - Broadway Café, Ft. Meade - Bill Royal
- Nov. 17th - 11:30 AM - Rosie's, Kissimmee State Park - Bob Shields
- Dec. 8th - 11:30 AM - Petrillo's (Former Olde Boarding House), Trenton - Sam Ulbing
- Dec. 15th - 12:00 Noon - Stan's Idle Hour, Goodland - Bill Royal
- Jan. 1st - 12:00 Noon - New Years Day ride - Peck's Old Port Cove, Ozello (Crystal River) - Bill Royal
- Jan. 12th - 11:30 Am - Caribbean Jack's, Daytona Beach - Mike Peppin

We are ALWAYS looking for additional rides/sponsors so feel free to set something up and let's share it!

◆ And all the rest of the HSTA National schedule...

NOTES: Event schedule is subject to change without notice. Please be sure to check with the listed contact before making your plans!

For non-HSTA members reading this on the internet, be advised that attendance at these National Events requires HSTA membership. You can join at the event and your event fee gets waived (one time only)!

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Web Address/E-mail
October 5-6-7	Friends of Freddie's	Rosener's Resort Park Hills, MO 1-800-888-4241	Bob LaMear 636-938-3788 (hm)	racerboy@fms4u.com
October 19-20-21	AR By Way Boogie	Paris Inn 2010 E. Walnut Paris, AR 72855 479-963-2400	Mario Caruso 501-318-5233 - office 501-622-0987 (cell) Hot Springs AR 71901	guinzomoto@arkansasrider.com
November 2-3-4	Texas Hill Country Ride	YO Ranch Resort 2033 Sidney Baker Kerrville, TX 78028 877-967-3767	Ken Bowen & Dave and Connie Schluter	http://www.geocities.com/jfpoulos/THC2007.html TXHillCountryRally@gmail.com